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vertrag üben die internationale zusemmenarbeit auf dem Gebiet des patentwesens

PCT

REC'D **2 1 FEB 2001**

INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT

(Artikel 36 und Regel 70 PCT)

Aktenzeichen des Anmelders oder Anwalts	WEITERES VORGEHEN		llung über die Übersendung des internationalen
7513 PCT	WEITERES WORKETTER	vonaungen	Prüfungsberichts (Formblatt PCT/IPEA/416)
Internationales Aktenzeichen	Internationales Anmeldedatum(7	ag/Monat/Jahr)	Prioritätsdatum (Tag/Monat/Tag)
PCT/EP00/04072	06/05/2000		11/05/1999
Internationale Patentklassifikation (IPK) oder B62D5/083	nationale Klassifikation und IPK		
Anmelder			
ZF LENKSYSTEME GMBH		a	
Dieser internationale vorläufige Prü Behörde erstellt und wird dem Anme			onalen vorläufigen Prüfung beauftragten
2. Dieser BERICHT umfaßt insgesamt	7 Blätter einschließlich diese	s Deckblatts.	
und/oder Zeichnungen, die geä	indert wurden und diesem Ber chtigungen (siehe Regel 70.16	cht zugrunde	utter mit Beschreibungen, Ansprüchen liegen, und/oder Blätter mit vor dieser tt 607 der Verwaltungsrichtlinien zum PCT).
Diese Anlagen umlassen insgesam	n blatter.		
3. Dieser Bericht enthält Angaben zu f	olgenden Punkten:		
I ⊠ Grundlage des Berichts	•		
II ☐ Priorität			
III □ Keine Erstellung eines IV □ Mangelnde Einheitlichk		iderische Täti	gkeit und gewerbliche Anwendbarkeit
V ⊠ Begründete Feststellun	· ·		, der erfinderischen Tätigkeit und der zung dieser Feststellung
VI 🔲 Bestimmte angeführte t		J	3
VII 🛛 Bestimmte Mängel der	internationalen Anmeldung		
Vill 🛛 Bestimmte Bemerkunge	en zur internationalen Anmeld	ıng	
		<u> </u>	
Datum der Einreichung des Antrags	Datum	der Fertigstellu	ing dieses Berichts
28/09/2000	19.02	2001	
Name und Postanschrift der mit der internatio Prüfung beauftragten Behörde:	nalen vorläufigen Bevoll	mächtigter Bedi	ensteter
Europäisches Patentamt D-80298 München	Rincl	nard, L	(Internal Control of the Control of
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656			Ban She she

INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen PCT/EP00/04072

I. Gr	undlage	des	Ber	ichts
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1.	Dieser Bericht wurde erstellt auf der Grundlage (<i>Ersatzblätter, die dem Anmeldeamt auf eine Aufforderung nach Artikel 14 hin vorgelegt wurden, gelten im Rahmen dieses Berichts als "ursprünglich eingereicht" und sind ihm nicht beigefügt, weil sie keine Änderungen enthalten.)</i> : Beschreibung, Seiten:					
	1-8		ursprüngliche Fassung			
	Pat	entansprüche, Nr.	:			
	1-10	0	ursprüngliche Fassung			
•	Zei	chnungen, Blätter	:			
	1/2-	-2/2	ursprüngliche Fassung			
2.	die	internationale Anm	he: Alle vorstehend genannten Bestandteile standen der Behörde in der Sprache, in der eldung eingereicht worden ist, zur Verfügung oder wurden in dieser eingereicht, sofern shts anderes angegeben ist.			
		Bestandteile stand gereicht; dabei han	en der Behörde in der Sprache: zur Verfügung bzw. wurden in dieser Sprache delt es sich um			
		die Sprache der Ü Regel 23.1(b)).	bersetzung, die für die Zwecke der internationalen Recherche eingereicht worden ist (nach			
		die Veröffentlichu	ngssprache der internationalen Anmeldung (nach Regel 48.3(b)).			
		die Sprache der Ü ist (nach Regel 55	bersetzung, die für die Zwecke der internationalen vorläufigen Prüfung eingereicht worden .2 und/oder 55.3).			
3.			nternationalen Anmeldung offenbarten Nucleotid- und/oder Aminosäuresequenz ist die e Prüfung auf der Grundlage des Sequenzprotokolls durchgeführt worden, das:			
		in der internationa	len Anmeldung in schriftlicher Form enthalten ist.			
		zusammen mit de	r internationalen Anmeldung in computerlesbarer Form eingereicht worden ist.			
		bei der Behörde n	achträglich in schriftlicher Form eingereicht worden ist.			
		bei der Behörde n	achträglich in computerlesbarer Form eingereicht worden ist.			
			3 das nachträglich eingereichte schriftliche Sequenzprotokoll nicht über den alt der internationalen Anmeldung im Anmeldezeitpunkt hinausgeht, wurde vorgelegt.			
		•	3 die in computerlesbarer Form erfassten Informationen dem schriftlichen entsprechen, wurde vorgelegt.			
4.	Auf	grund der Änderun	gen sind folgende Unterlagen fortgefallen:			

INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen PCT/EP00/04072

		Beschreibung, Ansprüche, Zeichnungen,	Seiten: Nr.: Blatt:								
5.		Dieser Bericht ist ohne Berücksichtigung (von einigen) der Änderungen erstellt worden, da diese aus den angegebenen Gründen nach Auffassung der Behörde über den Offenbarungsgehalt in der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung hinausgehen (Regel 70.2(c)).									
		(Auf Ersatzblätter, di beizufügen).	ie solche Än	derun	gen enthalter	ı, ist unter	r Punkt 1 h	inzuweise	en;sie sir	nd diesem	n Bericht
6.	. Etwaige zusätzliche Bemerkungen:										
V.		ründete Feststellun verblichen Anwendb									und der
1.	Fest	tstellung									
	Neu	heit (N)		Ja: Nein:	Ansprüche Ansprüche	1-10					
	Erfir	nderische Tätigkeit (E	•	Ja: Nein:	Ansprüche Ansprüche	1-10					

2. Unterlagen und Erklärungen siehe Beiblatt

Gewerbliche Anwendbarkeit (GA)

VII. Bestimmte Mängel der internationalen Anmeldung

Es wurde festgestellt, daß die internationale Anmeldung nach Form oder Inhalt folgende Mängel aufweist: siehe Beiblatt

Ja: Ansprüche 1-10 Nein: Ansprüche -

VIII. Bestimmte Bemerkungen zur internationalen Anmeldung

Zur Klarheit der Patentansprüche, der Beschreibung und der Zeichnungen oder zu der Frage, ob die Ansprüche in vollem Umfang durch die Beschreibung gestützt werden, ist folgendes zu bemerken: siehe Beiblatt

Begründete Feststellung nach Artikel 35(2) hinsichtlich der Zu Punkt V Neuheit, der erfinderischen Tätigkeit und der gewerblichen Anwendbarkeit; Unterlagen und Erklärungen zur Stützung dieser Feststellung

V.1. Stand der Technik

- 1. Es wird auf das folgende Dokument verwiesen:
 - D1: DE 43 10 396 A (ZAHNRADFABRIK FRIEDRICHSHAFEN) 7. Oktober 1993 (1993-10-07)
- V.2. Neuheit, erfinderische Tätigkeit und gewerbliche Anwendbarkeit des Gegenstandes des unabhängigen Anspruchs 1
- 1. Soweit die vorliegende Anmeldung, insbesondere die folgende Merkmalen f) und g) des Anspruchs 1, im Hinblick auf die in VIII bemerkten Unklarheiten zu interpretieren ist, wird festgestellt:
- Das Dokument D wird als nächstliegender Stand der Technik gegenüber dem 2. Gegenstand des Anspruchs 1 angesehen. Es offenbart (die Verweise in Klammern beziehen sich auf dieses Dokument):
 - Drehschieberventil für Hilfskraftlenkungen von Kraftfahrzeugen a) (Zusammenfassung),
 - mit einem ersten Ventilelement, das mit einem Ventil-Eingangsglied drehfest b) verbunden ist (Spalte 2, Zeilen 41, 42, 66 und 67),
 - mit einem zweiten Ventilelement, das mit einem Ventil-Ausgangsglied c) drehfest verbunden ist (Spalte 2, Zeilen 45, 46, und Spalte 3, Zeilen 17 bis 19),
 - d) wobei das erste Ventilelement mit dem Ventil-Ausgangsglied über eine Drehstabfeder und über eine Totgangkupplung verbunden ist (Spalte.3, Zeilen 3 bis 5 und 15 bis 17),
 - die beiden Ventilelemente in einem Ventilgehäuse koaxial ineinander e) beweglich angeordnet sind (Spalte 2, Zeilen 41 bis 48) und

INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT - BEIBLATT

- f) maximal um den Verdrehweg der Totgangkupplung relativ zueinander verdrehbar sind (Spalte 3, Zeilen 21 bis 23) und
- g) das radial aussenliegende Ventilelement innenliegende und das radial innenliegende Ventilelement aussenliegende, wenigstens teilweise in ihrer axialen Länge begrenzte Steuerlängsnuten aufweisen (Spalte 2, Zeilen 55 bis 60),
- h) die miteinander zur Steuerung eines Druckmittels zu und von zwei Arbeitsräumen eines Servomotors zusammenwirken (Spalte 3, Zeilen 23 bis 28),
- i) wobei das erste Ventilelement über ein Verbindungselement mit dem Ventil-Ausgangsglied verbunden ist (Spalte 3, Zeilen 15 bis 17).

Der Gegenstand des Anspruchs 1 unterscheidet sich daher von diesem bekannten Drehschieberventil dadurch, daß

j) es in einem Bereich zwischen einem Verbindungsbereich und einem Steuerbereich mindestens einen Schnitt aufweist.

Der Gegenstand des Anspruchs 1 ist somit neu (Artikel 33 (2) PCT).

- 2. Die mit der vorliegenden Erfindung zu objektive lösende Aufgabe kann somit darin gesehen werden, ein Drehschieberventil darzustellen, bei dem das Spiel zwischen Ventil-Eingangsglied und Ventil-Ausgangsglied eliminiert wird und trotzdem ein Winkel- und Längsbeweglichkeit zwischen einem als Steuerbuchse ausgebildeten Ventilelement und einem als Antriebsritzel ausgebildeten Ventil-Ausgangsgliedes erhalten bleibt, um einen lateralen Fehler-ausgleich zu ermöglichen.
- 3. Die in Anspruch 1 der vorliegenden Anmeldung für diese Aufgabe vorgeschlagene Lösung beruht auf einer erfinderischen Tätigkeit (Artikel 33(3) PCT), weil dessen Gegenstand nicht aus dem jetzigen Stand der Technik bekannt oder in naheliegender Weise daraus herleitbar ist.
- 4. Der Gegenstand des Anspruchs 1 kann außerdem nach auf irgendeinem Gebiet des Fahrzeugbaues hergestellt oder benutzt werden. Er ist somit gewerblich anwendbar in der Sinne des Artikels 33(4) PCT.

INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT - BEIBLATT

- V.3. Neuheit, erfinderische Tätigkeit und gewerbliche Anwendbarkeit der Gegenstände der abhängigen Ansprüche 2 bis 10
- Die Ansprüche 2 bis 10 sind vom Anspruch 1 abhängig und erfüllen damit 1. ebenfalls die Erfordernisse des PCT in bezug auf Neuheit und erfinderische Tätigkeit.
- 2. Die Gegenstände dieser Ansprüche sind gewerbliche Anwendbare (Artikel 33(4) PCT).

Bestimmte Mängel der internationalen Anmeldung Zu Punkt VII

- 1. Im Widerspruch zu den Erfordernissen der Regel 5.1 a) ii) PCT werden in der Beschreibung weder der in dem Dokument D1 offenbarte einschlägige Stand der Technik noch dieses Dokument angegeben.
- 2. Der Anspruch 1 ist zwar in der zweiteiligen Form abgefaßt; das Merkmal i) ist aber unrichtigerweise im kennzeichnenden Teil aufgeführt, da es im Dokument D1 in Verbindung mit den im Oberbegriff genannten Merkmalen offenbart wurde (Regel 6.3 b) PCT).
- Ein Paar wichtige Merkmale, wie z.B.; " ...erste Ventilelement...", "...zweite 3. Ventilelement...", " ... Totgangkupplung..." und so weiter, des Anspruchs 1 sind nicht mit in Klammern gesetzten Bezugszeichen versehen worden (Regel 6.2 b) PCT).

Zu Punkt VIII Bestimmte Bemerkungen zur internationalen Anmeldung

1. Der Anspruch 1 ist nicht ausreichend klar und erfüllt die Erfordernisse des Artikels 6 PCT insofern nicht, als der Gegenstand des Schutzbegehrens nicht klar definiert ist. Die folgenden funktionellen Angaben ermöglichen es einem Fachmann nicht, festzustellen, welche technischen Merkmale notwendig sind, um die genannte Funktion durchzuführen: "..., die auch zu Kennlinien- Justierzwecken konisch ausgebildet sein können,...". Dies Merkmal wird somit in dieser Sachprüfung nicht berücksichtigt.

INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT - BEIBLATT

- 2. Zur Erinnerung ist es erwähnt, daß gemäß Absatz 4.6, Kapitel III, Teil C der Richtlinien für die Prüfung im europäischen Patentamt, die Ausdrücke wie "insbesondere", "vorzugweise" oder "zum Beispiel" keine Beschränkung des Schutzumfangs des Patentanspruchs bewirken, d.h. das nach einem derartigen Ausdruck stehende Merkmal ist als ganz und gar fakultativ zu betrachten (s. z.B. Anspruch 2).
- 3. Die auf Seite 5, Zeilen 2 bis 6 beschriebene Ausführungsbeispiele fallen nicht unter die vorliegenden Ansprüche. Dieser Widerspruch zwischen den Ansprüchen und der Beschreibung führt zu Zweifeln bezüglich des Gegenstandes des Schutzbegehrens, weshalb die Ansprüche nicht klar sein können (Artikel 6 PCT).
- Dem Anmelder wird die Einreichung in der regionalen Phase neuer Fassung der 4. Beschreibung und Ansprüche anheimgestellt, die den vorstehenden Bemerkungen Rechnung tragen um ein positive zukünftige Folge der Anmeldung zu ermöglichen.

Translation



PCT

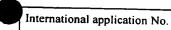
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7513 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notifi	cation of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)			
International application No. PCT/EP00/04072	International filing date (day/month/year) 06 May 2000 (06.05.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 11 May 1999 (11.05.99)			
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B62D 5/083					
Applicant	ZF LENKSYSTEME GMBH				
Authority and is transmitted to the ap 2. This REPORT consists of a total of This report is also accompan been amended and are the bacter (see Rule 70.16 and Section)	mination report has been prepared by this pplicant according to Article 36. 7 sheets, including this cover solved by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the descript usis for this report and/or sheets containing reference of the Administrative Instructions under the sheets.	heet. ion, claims and/or drawings which have ctifications made before this Authority			
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I Basis of the report II Priority Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV Lack of unity of invention V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI Certain documents cited VII Certain defects in the international application VIII Certain observations on the international application					
Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of	f this report			
28 September 2000 (28.0	19.00) 19 Fe	bruary 2001 (19.02.2001)			
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer	Authorized officer			
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.	Telephone No.			





PCT/EP00/04072

		ne report			
1. This unde	repoi r Artic	rt has been drawn cle 14 are referred t	on the basis o	f (Replacement she as "originally filed	eets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation I" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):
	\boxtimes	the internations	ıl application a	s originally filed	l.
	\boxtimes	the description,	pages	1-8	, as originally filed,
			pages		, filed with the demand,
			pages		, filed with the letter of
			pages		, filed with the letter of
	\boxtimes	the claims,	Nos.	1-10	, as originally filed,
					, as amended under Article 19,
			Nos.		, filed with the demand,
					, filed with the letter of,
					, filed with the letter of
l	\boxtimes	the drawings,			_ , as originally filed,
•					, filed with the demand,
			sheets/fig		, filed with the letter of
			sheets/fig		, filed with the letter of
2. The an	nendr	ments have resulte			
		the description,	pages		
3. 🔲 [This r to go	eport has been es beyond the disclo	tablished as if sure as filed, a	(some of) the am	nendments had not been made, since they have been considered as Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
					- 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
4. Additio	onal o	bservations, if ne	cessary:		
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

nternational application No. PCT/EP 00/04072

NO

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 3 citations and explanations supporting	5(2) with regard to novelty ng such statement	, inventive step or industrial applic	ability;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-10	YES
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-10	YES
		Claims		NO NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-10	YES

2. Citations and explanations

Prior art

Reference is made to the following document:

Claims

D1: DE-A-43 10 396 (ZAHNRADFABRIK FRIEDRICHSHAFEN), 7 October 1993 (1993-10-07)

Novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability of the subject matter of independent Claim 1

- 1. To the extent that it is possible to understand the application (in particular features (f) and (g) of Claim 1 as indicated below) despite the problems of clarity noted in Box VIII below, the following comments can be made.
- Document D1, which is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of Claim 1, discloses (the references in parentheses are to D1):
 - (a) a rotary slide valve for power-assisted steering systems in motor vehicles (see the abstract),
 - (b) comprising a first valve element which is rotationally fixed to a valve input member (column 2, lines 41-42 and 66-67),
 - (c) and also comprising a second valve element which is rotationally fixed to a valve output member (column 2,

lines 45-46, and column 3, lines 17-19);

- (d) wherein the first valve element is connected to the valve output member by a torsion bar spring and a dead travel clutch (column 3, lines 3-5 and 15-17);
- (e) wherein the two valve elements are so arranged in a valve housing as to allow coaxial movement of one within the other (column 2, lines 41-48)
- (f) and can rotate in relation to each other by an amount not exceeding the rotational travel of the dead travel clutch (column 3, lines 21-23),
- (g) and the radially outermost valve element has at least partially axially delimited longitudinal control grooves at the inner end, and the radially innermost valve element has at least partially axially delimited longitudinal control grooves at the outer end (column 2, lines 55-60),
- (h) which grooves co-operate with each other to control a hydraulic medium flowing to and from two working chambers of a servomotor (column 3, lines 23-28);
- (i) and wherein the first valve element is connected to the valve output member by a connecting element (column 3, lines 15-17).

The subject matter of Claim 1 differs from this known rotary slide valve in that:

(j) it incorporates at least one slit in a part between a connecting portion and a control portion.

The subject matter of Claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2. The objective problem to be solved by the invention can thus be seen as that of providing a rotary slide valve in which the backlash between the valve input member and valve output member is eliminated without sacrificing the relative angular and longitudinal movability between a valve element in the form of a control sleeve and a valve

output member in the form of an input pinion, thereby allowing lateral error compensation.

- 3. The solution proposed in Claim 1 involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) because it is not known from the prior art and cannot be derived in an obvious way therefrom.
- 4. The subject matter of Claim 1 can also be made or used in any branch of automotive engineering, and is therefore industrially applicable within the meaning of PCT Article 33(4).

Novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability of the subject matter of dependent Claims 2-10

- 1. Claims 2-10 are dependent on Claim 1 and therefore also meet the PCT requirements relating to novelty and inventive step.
- 2. The subject matter of these claims is industrially applicable (PCT Article 33(4)).

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

- Contrary to the requirements of PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not cite document D1 or indicate the relevant prior art disclosed therein.
- 2. Although Claim 1 is presented in the two-part form, feature (i) should not have been placed in the characterising part of the claim because it is disclosed in document D1 together with the features set out in the preamble (PCT Rule 6.3(b)).
- 3. A number of important features of Claim 1 (e.g. "first valve element", "second valve element", " dead travel clutch" and others) are not followed by reference signs in parentheses (PCT Rule 6.2(b)).

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

- 1. Claim 1 is not sufficiently clear and fails to meet the requirements of PCT Article 6 the because the scope of protection is not clearly defined. The functional specification "...which may be tapered so as to allow adjustment of the characteristic curve" does not provide a person skilled in the art with an adequate indication of the technical features that are needed to implement the function in question. This phrase has therefore been ignored for the purpose of the substantive examination.
- 2. The applicant is reminded that according to the PCT Examination Guidelines (Chapter III, paragraph 4.6), expressions such as "in particular", "preferably" and "for example" have no limiting effect on the scope of a claim; that is to say, any feature following such an expression is regarded as entirely optional (see, for example, Claim 2).
- 3. The embodiments described in lines 2-6 on page 5 are not covered by the claims. This inconsistency between the claims and the description creates uncertainty regarding the subject matter for which protection is sought, as a result of which the claims are not clear (PCT Article 6).
- 4. In the regional phase the applicant may, at his discretion, submit amended versions of the description and claims on the basis of the comments made in this report so that the application can be pursued successfully.

PCT

INTERNATIONALER RECHERCHENBERICHT

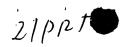
(Artikel 18 sowie Regeln 43 und 44 PCT)

Aktenzeichen des Anmelders oder Anwalts			
7513 PCT	VORGEHEN Recherchenberichts (zutreffend, nachstehe	(Formblatt PCT/ISA/220) sowie, soweit	
Internationales Aktenzeichen	Internationales Anmeldedatum	(Frühestes) Prioritätsdatum (Tag/Monat/Jahr)	
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PCT/EP 00/04072	06/05/2000	11/05/1999	
Anmelder			
ZF LENKSYSTEME GMBH			
Description of Descri			
Dieser internationale Recherchenbericht wurde Artikel 18 übermittelt. Eine Kopie wird dem Inte	le von der Internationalen Recherchenbehörde ternationalen Büro übermittelt.	erstellt und wird dem Anmelder gemäß	
	200		
Dieser internationale Recherchenbericht umfal	ıßt insgesamt _2 Blätter.		
	veils eine Kopie der in diesem Bericht genannte	en Unterlagen zum Stand der Technik bei.	
Grundlage des Berichts			
a. Hinsichtlich der Sprache ist die inten	mationale Recherche auf der Grundlage der int	emationalen Anmeldung in der Sprache	
_	ereicht wurde, sofern unter diesem Punkt nicht:		
Die internationale Recherche Anmeldung (Regel 23.1 b)) d	e ist auf der Grundlage einer bei der Behörde e durchgeführt worden.	ingereichten Übersetzung der internationalen	
b. Hinsichtlich der in der internationalen	n Anmeldung offenbarten Nucleotid- und/ode	r Aminosäuresequenz ist die internationale	
Recherche auf der Grundlage des Se	equenzprotokolls durchgeführt worden, das dung in Schriflicher Form enthalten ist.	•	
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	n in scrimulcher Form eingereicht worden ist. n in computerlesbarer Form eingereicht worden	. !_A	
. =	r in computeriesbarer Form eingereicht worden träglich eingereichte schriftliche Sequenzprotol		
internationalen Anmeldung ir	m Anmeldezeitpunkt hinausgeht, wurde vorgele	egt.	
Die Erklärung, daß die in con wurde vorgelegt.	mputerlesbarer Form erfaßten Informationen de	m schriftlichen Sequenzprotokoll entsprechen,	
2. Bestimmte Ansprüche hab	en sich als nicht recherchierbar erwiesen (s	sisha Sald IV	
	en sich als nicht recherchierbar erwiesen (s der Erfindung (siehe Feld II).	dene reia i).	
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4. Hinsichtlich der Bezelchnung der Erfind	dusa		
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5. Hinsichtlich der Zusammenfassung			
wird der vom Anmelder einge		_	
wurde der Wortlaut nach Reg Anmelder kann der Behörde Recherchenberichts eine Ste	gel 38.2b) in der in Feld III angegebenen Fassu innerhalb eines Monats nach dem Daturn der Æ ellungnahme vorlegen.	ing von der Behörde festgesetzt. Der Absendung dieses internationalen	
	st mit der Zusammenfassung zu veröffentlichen	r Δhb Nr 1	
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JC10 Rec'd PET/PTO 0 5 NOV 2001

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EL327 552601US
DATE OF DEPOSIT_ 1115 01
TYPE OF DOCUMENT National Phase Application
Re: BREITWEG Werner et al
SERIAL NO. Jobe Assignal FILING DATE Horowith
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[11839/12]

ROTARY SLIDE VALVE FOR POWER-ASSISTED STEERING SYSTEMS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The <u>present</u> invention relates to a rotary slide valve for power-assisted steering systems of motor vehicles [of the type defined in more detail in the preamble of claim 1].

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rotary slide valves for power-assisted steering systems normally contain two valve elements which are arranged so as to be movable coaxially one in the other and are arranged so as to be rotatable relative to one another to a limited extent in order to achieve a control travel. In this case, the first valve element, which is connected to a valve input member, is designed as a radially outer rotary slide. A second valve element is connected fixedly in terms of rotation to a valve output member designed as a driving pinion and is designed as a radially inner control bush. The rotary slide is additionally connected to the driving pinion via a backlash coupling limiting a control travel. Both valve elements have longitudinal control grooves which are limited at least partially in their axial extent and serve for controlling a pressure medium from or to working spaces of a servomotor.

A torsion-bar spring serves for resetting the two valve elements from a deflected position into their neutral position.

In [the known] <u>conventional</u> rotary slide valves, the control bush is suspended in a suspension pin pressed into the driving

pinion. For this assembly step, it is necessary to have play in the suspension connection between the suspension pin and the control bush. However, because of the play which is present, a relative movement may occur between the rotary slide and the control bush, without a steering torque having been introduced by a steering handwheel. This results in undesirable oil streams to the working spaces of the servomotor. These undesirable oil streams are manifested, in addition, by steering torque jumps on the steering handwheel, which result in selfsteering effects and may therefore lead to the driver having a feeling of uncertainty.

In the [exemplary embodiments] <u>rotary slide valves</u> described [hitherto] <u>above</u>, the rotary slide is connected fixedly to the valve input member and the control bush to the valve output member. There are, however, also <u>conventional</u> rotary slide valves which operate with valve elements assigned in reverse. The invention <u>present</u> may [likewise] be used, along with the same benefits, for these rotary slide valves.

The valve output member may be designed as a driving pinion or as a ball screw, depending on use in rack-and-pinion or ball-and-nut power-assisted steering systems.

Such a rotary slide valve is described in [DE] <u>German</u>

<u>Published Patent Application No. 41 08 597 [Al].</u>

The rotary slide valve is designed [in such a way] <u>so</u> that the engagement dimensions of the take-up connection are sufficiently large to ensure a firm fit, without this resulting in a large-size valve assembly. The take-up pin, which projects at right angles from an outer circumference of

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the pinion shaft, is inserted into a pin hole which extends in the radial direction of the valve bush. The pinion shaft is thereby operatively connected to the valve bush. The mid-axis of the inside diameter of the valve bush intersects the mid-axis of the pin hole and is displaced from the mid-axis of the valve assembly in the direction of that side of the valve assembly which is located opposite the pinhole.

[The] It is an object [on which] of the present invention [is based is] to [present] provide a rotary slide valve, in which the play between the valve input member and the valve output member is eliminated and angular and longitudinal movability is [nevertheless] maintained between a valve element [designed] configured as a control bush and a valve output member [designed] configured as a driving pinion, in order to allow the compensation of lateral error.

SUMMARY

The <u>foregoing</u> object [on which] <u>of</u> the <u>present</u> invention [is based] is achieved by [means of] <u>providing</u> a [generic] rotary slide valve [also having the defining features of the main claim] <u>as described herein</u>.

The connection of the control bush to the driving pinion is made by [means of] a tolerance-insensitive and play-free press connection in the form of a connecting element. The connecting element may be connected in one piece to the control bush or [else] may be coupled to the control bush by forming or joining.

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The control bush or the connecting element may be [designed]

configured in the connection region as a solid shaft, a hollow shaft or a polygon.

The connecting element may have a profile, for example, in the form of a boss located on the circumference, which profile may be applied both to the control bush and in the driving pinion. It is necessary merely to ensure a tolerance-insensitive, centric and play-free connection of the two parts.

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By virtue of a flexible configuration of a region between a connection region of the control bush and the driving pinion and a control region of the control bush, transverse forces acting from outside [can] may be distributed uniformly and the two parts [can] may therefore be fixed, free of play, relative to one another. Lateral and angular errors which are present [can] may thereby be compensated [in such a way] so that there are no distortions within the rotary slide valve.

The flexibility of the region between a connection region of the control bush and the driving pinion and a control region of the control bush is obtained by the introduction of at least one cut and is influenced by the width, depth and length of the latter and by the arrangement and density of the cuts.

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The cuts are introduced by high-energy beam cutting, plasma cutting, erosion cutting, punching, grinding or milling.

Forces acting from outside, such as distortions in the

steering column, elastic influences or different thermal
expansions of the individual components in relation to one
another, which adversely influence the functioning of previous

rotary slide valves, are avoided. Production tolerances [can]

may also be compensated in terms of their influences on the

functioning of the rotary slide valves.

Assembly is [carried out] **performed** merely by joining together axially[; this affords]. **This arrangement provides** advantages with regard to the outlay in terms of production and assembly.

Assembly may also be [carried out] **performed** fully automatically with the aid of force/path monitoring, thus leading to a higher reproducibility of quality and functioning.

[Advantageous and expedient refinements of the invention are specified in the subclaims. However, the invention is not restricted to the feature combinations of the claims, but, instead, the set object affords a person skilled in the art with further expedient combination possibilities of claims and individual claim features.]

An [exemplary] <u>example</u> embodiment of the present invention is described below[, in principle,] with reference to the [figures of which:] <u>several Figures.</u>

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 [shows] <u>is</u> a longitudinal [section] <u>cross-sectional</u>

<u>view</u> through a rotary slide valve according to the <u>present</u>

invention by the example of a rack-and-pinion power-assisted

steering system of <u>a</u> motor [vehicles;] <u>vehicle</u>.

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Figure 2 [shows a detail] is an enlarged view of a rotary slide valve according to the present invention [on an enlarged scale, and].

Figure 3 [shows] is a [section] cross-sectional view taken along the line III-III of the [detail of a] rotary slide valve [according to the invention which is] illustrated in [figure]

Figure 2.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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The <u>present</u> invention is described with reference to the example of a rotary slide valve for a rack-and-pinion power-assisted steering systems. The invention may, however, also be applied, to the same effect, to other power-assisted steering systems, for example ball-and-nut power-assisted steering systems.

A rotary slide valve 1 according to the **present** invention [contains] **includes** a first valve element in the form of a rotary slide 2 and a second valve element which is [designed] **configured** as a control bush 3.

The rotary slide 2 is connected fixedly in terms of rotation to a valve input member 4 which may be [designed] configured as a steering spindle connection. The steering spindle connection is connected, for example, to a steering spindle[, not illustrated,] which carries a steering handwheel, via a cardan joint [which is likewise not illustrated]. Moreover, the rotary slide 2 is connected to a valve output member 5 via a backlash coupling[, not illustrated].

The valve output member 5 may be [designed] <u>configured</u> as a driving pinion or as a ball screw, depending on use in rack-and-pinion or ball-and-nut power-assisted steering systems.

Arranged on the outer cylindrical surface of the rotary slide 2 are longitudinal control grooves 6 which cooperate with longitudinal control grooves 7 of the control bush 3.

Depending on the direction of rotation, the rotary slide valve 1 makes a pressure-medium connection with a servomotor[, not illustrated,] via the longitudinal control grooves 6 and 7 and via annular grooves 8 in the control bush 3.

Furthermore, the valve input member 4 is connected to the valve output member 5 via a torsion-bar spring 9. The valve output member 5, in turn, is connected fixedly in terms of rotation to the control bush 3 via a connecting element 10. These various connections with one another make it possible to have a limited relative rotation of the rotary slide 2 in relation to the control bush 3. As a result of this relative rotation of the valve elements in relation to one another, the pressure medium conveyed by a power-steering pump[, not illustrated,] is conducted, via a pressure-medium reservoir[, likewise not illustrated], from the relieved working space of the servomotor[, not illustrated,] into the loaded working space of the latter.

The coupling of the valve output member 5 and the control bush 3 is [carried out] achieved by [means of] a connecting element 10 which is connected in one piece to the control bush 3 here. The connecting element 10 is pressed into the valve output member 5 and is secured against rotation by [means of] a boss

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contour 11. This <u>arrangement</u> allows a play-free take-up. The connecting element 10 is connected to the valve output member 5 in a connection region 12. The connection region 12 is spatially separated from a control region 13 of the control bush 3 by [means of] a region 14. In this region 14, at least one cut 15 is made, which ensures torsional rigidity and flexibility of this region 14.

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[Reference symbols

- 1. Rotary slide valve
- 2. Rotary slide
- 5 3. Control bush
 - 4. Valve input member
 - 5. Valve output member
 - 6. Longitudinal control grooves (rotary slide)
 - 7. Longitudinal control grooves (control bush)
- 10 8. Annular grooves
 - 9. Torsion-bar spring
 - 10. Connecting element
 - 11. Boss contour
 - 12. Connection region
- 15 13. Control region
 - 14. Region
 - 15. Cut]

[Abstract

Rotary slide valve for power-assisted steering systems of motor vehicles]

5 ABSTRACT

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A rotary slide valve [(1)] for power-assisted steering systems of motor vehicles [contains] <u>includes</u> a rotary slide [(2)] which is connected fixedly in terms of rotation to a valve input member [(4)]. The control bush [(3)] is connected fixedly in terms of rotation to a valve output member [(5)]. [

] The two valve elements are arranged so as to be movable coaxially one in the other and are rotatable relative to one another at most by the amount of the rotary travel of a backlash coupling. The rotary slide [(2)] has outer and the control bush inner longitudinal control grooves [(6, 7)] which cooperate with one another in order to control a pressure medium to and from two working spaces of a servomotor. [

20] The rotary slide [(2)] is connected to the valve output
member [(5)] via a torsion-bar spring [(9)]. Productionrelated tolerances which may lead to undesirable effects in
driving behavior are compensated by [means of] a connecting
element [(10)].[

Figure 1]

I.	Basis	οf	the	report	t
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1.	This report has been drawn on the basis of (Substitute
	sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in
	response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to
	in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to
	the report since they do not contain amendments):

The description, pages:

1-8

original version

The claims, Nos.:

1-10

original version

The drawings, sheets/fig.:

1/2-2/2

original version

2. With regard to language: all aforementioned parts were available to the Authority in the language in which the international patent application was filed, or were filed in this language unless otherwise indicated under this point.

The parts were available to the Authority in the _____language or were filed in this language. This language is

- [] the language of the translation which was filed for the purposes of the international search (i.a.w. Rule 23.1(b)).
- [] the publication language of the international patent application (i.a.w. Rule 48.3(b))
- [] the language of the translation which was filed for the purposes of the international preliminary examination (i.a.w. Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

3.	disc inte	regard to the nucleotide- and/or amino acid sequence closed in the international patent application, the ernational preliminary examination was carried out on basis of the sequence protocol which
	[]	is included in writing in the international patent application
	[]	was filed in machine-readable form together with the international patent application
	[]	
	[]	
	[]	the declaration that the written sequence protocol filed later does not go beyond the disclosure of the international patent application at the time of filing has been submitted the declaration that the information acquired in
	Lj	machine-readable form corresponds to the written sequence protocol has been submitted
4.	The	amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
	[]	the description, pages the claims, Nos. the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. [] This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Additional observations below (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Replacement sheets containing such amendments are indicated under point 1; they are to be attached to this report) see supplementary page

- 6. Additional observations, if necessary:
- V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- 1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-10
Inventive Step (IS)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-10
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Yes: No:	Claims Claims	1-10

2. CITATIONS AND Explanations

see appended sheet

VII. Shortcomings found in the International Patent Application

It has been found that the International Patent Application has the following shortcomings in form or content:

see appended sheet

VIII. Specific comments on the International Patent Application

The following comments can be made regarding the clarity of the patent claims, the description and the drawings or the question of whether the claims are fully supported by the description:

see appended sheet

Re Point V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

V.1. Related Art

- V.2. Novelty, inventive activity and industrial

 applicability of the subject matter of independent

 Claim 1
- As far as the present Application is to be interpreted, in particular the following features f) and g) of Claim 1, in view of the lack of clarity commented upon in VIII, it is determined:
- 2. That document D is considered the most proximal related art compared to the subject matter of Claim 1. It describes (the comments in parentheses refer to this document):
 - a) rotary-slide valve for power-assisted steering systems of motor vehicles (Abstract),
 - b) having a first valve element connected fixedly in terms of rotation to a valve input member (column 2, lines 41, 42, 66 and 67),
 - c) having a second valve element connected fixedly in terms of rotation to a valve output member (column 2, lines 45, 46 and column 3, lines 17 through 19),
 - d) the first valve element being connected to the valve output member via a torsion-bar spring and via a backlash coupling (column 3, lines 3 through 5 and 15 through 17),

- e) the two valve elements in one valve housing are arranged so as to be movable coaxially one in the other (column 2, lines 41 through 48) and
- f) at most by the amount of the rotary travel of the backlash coupling are rotatable relative to one another (column 3, lines 21 through 23) and
- g) the radially outer valve element having inner and the radially inner valve element having outer longitudinal control grooves which are limited at least partially in their axial length (column 2, lines 55 through 60),
- h) cooperating with one another in order to control a pressure medium to and from two working spaces of a servomotor (column 3, lines 23 through 28),
- i) the first valve element being connected to the valve output member via a connecting element (column 3, lines 15 through 17).

Therefore, the subject matter of Claim 1 differs from this known rotary slide valve in that

j) it has at least one cut in a region between a connection region and a control region.

Therefore, the subject matter of Claim 1 is novel (Article 33 (2) PCT).

Thus one may view the object to be attained by the present invention as representing a rotary slide valve in which the play between valve input member and valve output member is eliminated, and, in spite of that,

an angular and longitudinal mobility is maintained between a valve element designed as a control bush and a valve output member designed as drive sprocket, in order to make possible a lateral compensation of errors.

- 3. The solution proposed for this object in Claim 1 of the present Application is based on inventive activity (Article 33(3) PCT), because its subject matter is not known from the current related art and cannot be derived from it in an obvious manner.
- 4. The subject matter of Claim 1 can additionally be manufactured or used for any application of motor vehicle construction. Thus it is industrially applicable in the sense of Article 33(4) PCT.
- V.3. Novelty, inventive activity and industrial applicability of the subject matters of dependent Claims 2 through 10
- 1. Claims 2 through 10 are dependent on Claim 1 and thus likewise fulfill the requirements of PCT with respect to novelty and inventive activity.
- 2. The subject matters of these claims are industrially applicable (Article 33(4) PCT).

Re Point VII Particular flaws of the international Application

1. In contradiction to the requirements of Rule 5.1 a) ii)
PCT, in the specification, neither the relevant related
art described in document 1 nor this document were

recited.

- 2. It is true that Claim 1 is written in the two-part form; however, the feature i) is incorrectly specified in the characterizing part, since it was shown in document D1 in connection with the features named in the generic part of the claim (Rule 6.3 (b) PCT).
- 3. Some important features, such as "...first valve element...", "...second valve element...", "...backlash coupling..." and so on, of Claim 1 were not furnished with reference numerals in brackets (Rule 6.2 b) PCT).

Re Point VIII Specific Comments on the International Patent Application

- 1. Claim 1 is not sufficiently clear and does not fulfill the requirements of Article 6 PCT to the extent that the subject matter of the protection claimed is not clearly defined. The following functional statements do not make it possible for one skilled in the art to determine which technical features are essential, in order to carry out the function named: ",...which, for characteristic curve adjustment purposes, also can be made conical..." Therefore the examination as to substance does not consider this feature.
- 2. As a reminder we mention that, according to paragraph 4.6, chapter III, part C of the Guiding Principles for Examination, expressions such as "in particular", "preferably" or "for example" have no effect on limiting the scope of protection of a patent claim, that means

that a feature occurring after such an expression must be regarded as being absolutely optional (see, for example Claim 2).

- 3. The exemplary embodiments described on page 5, lines 2 through 6, do not come under the present claims. This contradiction between claims and specification leads to doubts with respect to the subject matter of the protection claimed, and because of this the claims cannot be clear (Article 6 PCT).
- 4. The applicant is advised to file a new version of the specification and claims, in the regional phase, which take into account the above comments, so as to make possible a positive future consequence with regard to the Application.

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